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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, King of our lives and Ruler of all, help us today to trust You with all our hearts and strive to stay within the circle of Your will. Turn the Members of this body back to the truth that those who would be great must be willing to serve humanity and that those who lose their lives for a worthy cause will find life everlasting. May such service and sacrifice bring deliverance to captives and balm to those who are bruised by life. Make our lawmakers, this day, receptive to Your wisdom, even amid the contention and collision of debate. Help them to shine with Your peace and good will. Lord, fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator with Your power for the work of this day.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that today, Tuesday, May 19, I be authorized to sign any duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 627, the credit card bill. A rollcall vote will occur sometime within the next half hour or so. It may not occur immediately. When cloture is invoked, we will dispose of the pending amendments and then vote on passage of the bill, as amended. Rollcall votes are possible later in the day. We do know there are some agreements on a nomination, the Gensler nomination. There will be a

vote on that nomination after the caucus lunches today at about 2:15 p.m. Later this afternoon, we expect to begin consideration of the Iraq and Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL WAR SPENDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today, the Senate takes up the supplemental war spending bill for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The need to consider such wartime supplementals is familiar to the Senate, but their importance has not diminished over time. Our Armed Forces have fought valiantly against global terrorism for more than 7 years, and our intelligence community has made invaluable contributions to that effort. This week, the Senate will show, once again, that we are grateful for the service and dependent on the heroism of every American fighting to help protect us at home and abroad.

Similar to any supplemental war spending bill, this week's bill must be viewed in the context of the broader fight against terrorism. This is a fight that began in earnest after the events of 9/11 but which found its justification in a long series of attacks that culminated on that terrible day. Eight years before 9/11, several Americans were killed in the first World Trade Center bombing. Two years later, five Americans were killed in an attack on a U.S. military site in Riyadh. In 1996, 19 U.S. servicemen lost their lives in the Khobar Towers bombing. In 1998, 12 Americans were killed in Embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. In 2000, 17 American soldiers were killed in the attack on the USS

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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